

Press Release #04-05

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Army's new command is official

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. (March 1, 2004) - Today, the Army officially created the organization that it intends to be recognized as the world leader in military research, development and engineering.

The U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., became "official" March 1, after its concept plan was approved by the Department of the Army. This plan marked the authority to transfer personnel to the command, the final step in a journey that began with RDECOM's provisional creation on Oct. 1, 2002.

"Our goal is to ensure our Armed Forces are relevant and ready, and that the products we provide reflect our commitment to our Warfighters," said Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, RDECOM's Commanding General. "RDECOM puts the right technology into the hands of Warfighters quicker. Our Warfighters are the best, and they deserve the best."

Performing that mission are more than 30,000 military and civilian personnel and full-time contractors, who are charged with moving technology out of the laboratories and into the hands of Warfighters as quickly as possible. With a \$3.5 billion budget, RDECOM is responsible for 75 percent of the Army's science and technology objectives. The command seeks out and develops the latest technology to provide the most advanced weapons, communication, clothing, food and vehicles, using 110 direct liaisons to the field, and more than 300 international agreements.

RDECOM brings together laboratories and research and engineering centers nationwide. This includes elements of the previous U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, which had its colors cased during a ceremony last October.

RDECOM includes:

- U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Adelphi, Md.;
- Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.;
- Natick Soldier Center (NSC), Natick, Mass.;
- Simulation, Training and Technology Center (STTC), Orlando, Fla.;
- Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC), Redstone Arsenal, Ala.;

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- Armaments Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.;
- Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC), Fort Monmouth, N.J.;
- Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Warren, Mich.
- U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity (AMSAA), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.;
- International Technology Centers around the world.

